

Consideration of the dedication of the Bluffs of Fall Creek Nature Preserve in Marion County

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 153.25 acre property in the northwest corner of the Fort Harrison State Park within Marion County. This nature preserve protects the stream corridor of the Fall Creek Valley and an important block of forested habitat in Indiana's Central Till Plain.

This Nature Preserve consists of topography that has heavily dissected slopes and ravine forests along with the floodplains of Fall Creek and its confluence with Mud Creek. These community types along with their expected component flora and fauna contain many species that are area-sensitive forest interior plants and animals dependent upon large, unfragmented forest ecosystems.

Noteworthy animal species found in this Nature Preserve include:

The site is utilized as nesting habitat by neotropical migrant birds, including the Cerulean Warbler (State Endangered), Black-and-White Warbler, and the Hooded Warbler. The Federally Endangered Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis*, has been documented onsite, suggesting the potential for a maternity colony within the park boundaries. There are also unconfirmed sightings of the Bobcat, *Lynx rufus*, within the potential habitat. The riparian areas are home to three species of State Endangered mussel: the Snuffbox, Northern Riffleshell, and the Clubshell; and the mussels of State Special Concern, the Ellipse and the Little Spectaclecase.

Noteworthy plant species found in this Nature Preserve include the State Watch Listed *Chelone oblique* var. *speciosa* or the Rose Turtlehead.

This tract is owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs.

The Division of Nature Preserves and the Division of State Parks and Reservoirs recommend dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

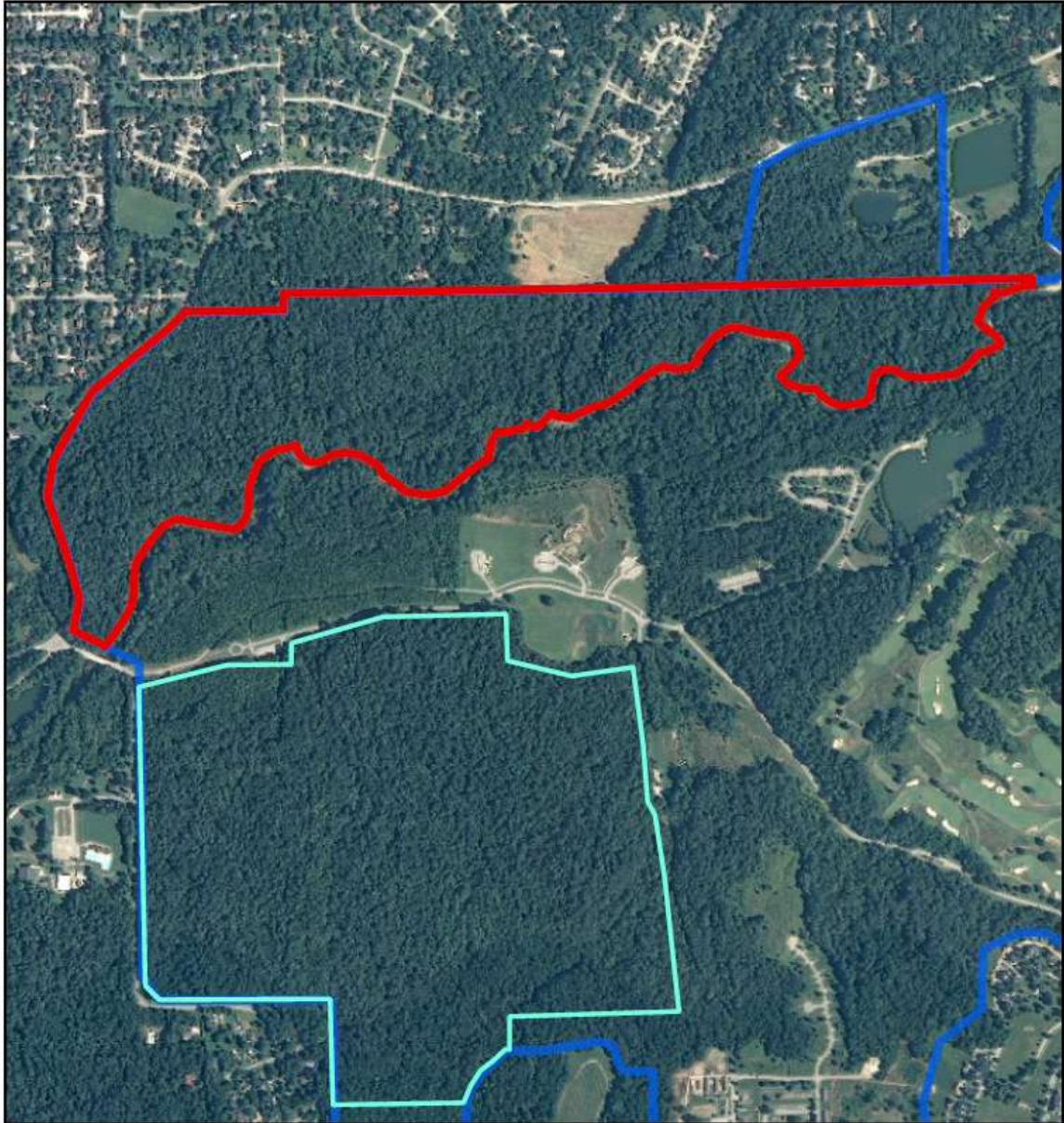
Attached is Nature Preserves exhibit A.

Bluffs of Fall Creek Nature Preserve

Exhibit A

County: Marion
Size: 153.25 acres

USGS Map: Fishers 7.5 Quad
Ownership: State Parks and Reservoirs
Nature Preserves



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 9.02.2011

- Bluffs of Fall Creek
- Lawrence Creek
- Ft. Harrison State Park

